

REMARKS

Claims 1 - 15 are pending in the present application.

Applicants note with appreciation that the Examiner indicated that all of the pending claims, i.e., claims 1 - 15, are allowable, and that the application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters.

The present application is claiming priority to European Patent Application No. 02255764 (hereinafter "the EP '764 application"). On 23 JUL 2003, concurrently with the filing of the present application, Applicants submitted a certified copy of the EP '764 application. However, the Office Action Summary, item 12:

- (1) does not show a mark in box (a), and so does not affirmatively acknowledge that the Office received the certified copy, and
- (2) shows a mark in box 3, implying that the Office received, or expects to receive, the certified copy from the International Bureau.

Applicants believe that the Office Action Summary should have shown marks in boxes 12, (a) and (1).

Applicants respectfully request that in the next communication, the Office please properly acknowledge receipt of the certified copy of the EP '764 application.

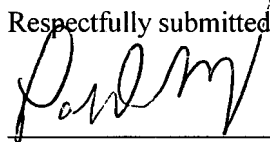
In the Office Action, the specification, claims and abstract are objected to because of extraneous text on pages 1, 12 and 15. Applicants are deleting the extraneous text. A withdrawal of the objection is respectfully solicited.

Applicants respectfully request favorable consideration and that this application be passed to allowance.

Date

4/11/07

Respectfully submitted,



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